

Socioeconomics of Washington's Outer Coast and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary: Recreation Activities



1.6 million
days of
sightseeing

A 2014 analysis of socioeconomic survey data provides new insight into the types of recreational activities along the Outer Coast of Washington State and within the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary (OCNMS). The report, ***A Socioeconomic Profile of Recreation Users of the Outer Coast of Washington State and within Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary, 2014***, is the result of a partnership with NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS), Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (ONMS), Ecotrust/Point97 and Washington State, and estimates the amount of time people spend recreating in the area.



1.0 million
days of
camping

How are people using Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary?

Washington households reported engaging in over 20 different activities in OCNMS and along the Outer Coast of Washington. Some of the most common activities are beach going, hiking/biking, camping, sightseeing and watching wildlife from the shore. Less frequently reported recreational activities include surfing, boating/sailing and snorkeling.



630,000
days of
tide-pooling

Visitor trips to the outer coast average 2.76 person-days, while visitor trips to the OCNMS averaged 3.11 person-days per household per trip. When the total trips across the region are compiled according to each activity that each person engaged in for each visit, the surveyed residents spent more 13.1 million "person-days" recreating along the Outer Coast and almost 2.1 million "person-days" in OCNMS with a 2-km inland adjacent area.



940,000
days of
photography



1.8 million
days of
beach going



1.3 million
days of
wildlife
watching

This map shows the extent of the study area stretching along the Outer Coast of Washington and along the Strait Juan De Fuca. The analysis used data collected in 2014 by EcoTrust [a marine consultancy firm] through surveys of residents of Washington State.





Photos: Kate Thompson & Danielle Schwarzmann

How much time do people spend recreating in Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary?

Of the combined 13.1 million annual person-days Washington residents spent recreating along the Outer Coast, the highest participation rate (for residents who visited the Outer Coast) in any one activity was beach going. Of the 44.3% of households in the State of Washington that reported making a trip to the Outer Coast, 62% of residents reported engaging in beach going. The second most common activity was sightseeing, with nearly 60% of residents engaged in the activity. Beach going, sightseeing, water-based sports, and whale watching all had over 1 million person-days for the year. Although, only 27% participated in water-based sports on their trips, this activity had over 2 million person-days. This means that residents who do participate in water-based sports spend multiple days of their trips participating in these types of activities (fishing, surfing, windsurfing, kayaking and scuba diving).

More Information:

A complete copy of the report is available at:

<http://sanctuaries.woc.noaa.gov/science/socioeconomic/olympiccoast/recreation-profile-report.html>

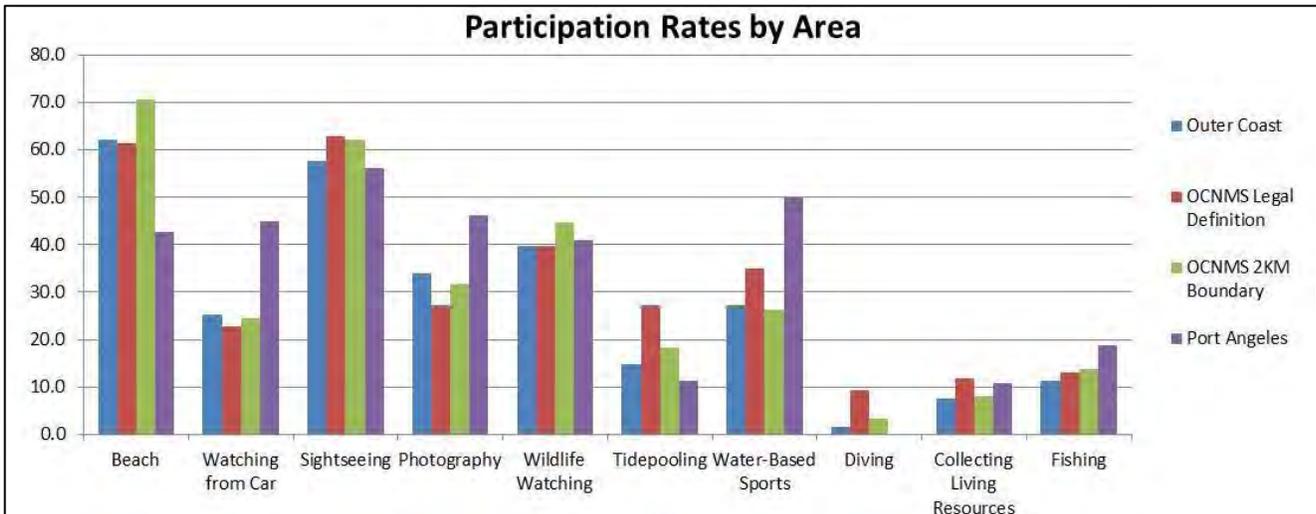
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Number of Person-Days by Activity and Percent of Total Person-Days (2014)

	Outer Coast		OCNMS Legal Definition		OCNMS 2KM Boundary		Port Angeles	
	Person-Days	(%)	Person-Days	(%)	Person-Days	(%)	Person-Days	(%)
Beach	1,807,380	13.8	92,022	13.9	308,303	14.7	22,707	15.2
Sightseeing	1,605,723	12.2	86,046	13.0	297,549	14.2	25,097	16.8
Photography	939,598	7.2	45,413	6.9	150,567	7.2	14,341	9.6
Wildlife Watching	1,330,768	10.1	71,705	10.8	234,215	11.2	21,511	14.4
Tide Pooling	630,125	4.8	46,608	7.0	137,422	6.5	2,390	1.6
Water-Based Sports	2,330,559	17.8	108,753	16.4	277,234	13.2	21,512	14.4
Diving	21,039	0.2	5,975	0.9	8,365	0.4	1,195	0.8
Collecting Living Resources (CLR)	523,487	4.0	25,097	3.8	51,384	2.4	2,390	1.6
Fishing	682,366	5.2	19,121	2.9	68,114	3.2	2,390	1.6
Total	13,122,070	100	662,079	100	2,098,375	100	149,386	100

Participation Rates by Area



<http://sanctuaries/noaa.gov/science/socioeconomic/olympiccoast/recreation.html>